(ASB \$2.89) Buy



Analyst	Date	Price Target
Ben Laird	June 2019	\$3.10/sh A from \$2.93/sh

Investment case

After meeting with the ASB and reviewing recent public presentations regarding company's prospects for tangible new ship building programs for the US navy we have turned more bullish with regard to our long term forecasts for ASB's US operations. This has driven an incremental increase to our previous price target.

Recently announced LCS and EPF contract extensions provide orderbook visibility out to 2025 and increase our confidence ASB can maintain stronger run rates for longer in the US on solid margins. We now also have increased confidence of our forecast of a significant increase in throughput and margin is in ASB's Australasian operations in the medium term. We see ASB as being in a sweet spot operationally and view our medium term forecasts with upside risk. We also see a longer term rerating opportunity in the stock as the support business grows it's earnings contribution to the group.

We maintain our BUY recommendation with a new price target of \$3.10/sh lacktrianglefrom \$2.93/sh previously.

Key points

Incremental upgrade to long term forecasts and valuation

- In recent times the US Navy has flagged several new vessel programs that could materially affect ASB's long term orderbook for both the LCS and EPF
- This has led us to increase our base case forecast of shipbuilding activity in ASB's US operations to a \$1.3-1.4bpa rate vs \$1.0-1.1bpa rate previously
- We now also use a 3% terminal growth rate in our DCF valuation vs 1% previously
- These changes have resulted in an incremental increase to our valuation to \$3.10/sh vs \$2.93/sh previously

Bullish US Navy plans lead us to increase long term US forecasts

- In recent presentation material ASB has outlined some key US navy programs that could result in both an uptick in through put and a boost in the orderbook tail for the US business
- FFG(X) ASB are currently preparing a proposal to the US navy with an award expected in late CY'20/early CY'21. The budget per vessel could be in the range of US\$800m (vs the current US\$584m cap on LCS vessels) and the requirement could be 2 per annum. Production is slated to commence in CY'21
- EPF variants 12mths ago ASB's rhetoric around the EPF vessels long term prospects was muted. There has now been a noticeable shift in tone as ASB explores the potential for EPF variants to be used in to support the navy's medical capability but more interestingly the building of the US autonomous vessel fleet. The ultimate shape of the autonomous fleet is fluid but there is potential for up to two EPF variants per annum for 10+ years if certain scenarios play out. Either way the US navy plans to be building boats in CY'22.

Year End 30 June			
2.89	A\$/sh		
3.10 3.10 10% 3.0%	A\$/sh A\$/sh		
350.9 m, 1,014.0 1,062.5 185.3 162.0	diluted A\$m A\$m A\$m A\$m		
2019f	2020f		
129.2 89.2 56.0	1638.3 139.7 97.6 61.8 62.7		
-40.0	103.9 -45.0 82.0		
26%	-12% 8% 10%		
43% 17.8 8.2	17.9 10% 16.2 7.6 10.9		
	8.0 2.8%		
5%	-30.4 -5% 17.5		
	2.89 3.10 3.10 3.10 10% 3.0% 3.09 350.9 m, 1,014.0 1,062.5 185.3 162.0 2019f 1867.2 129.2 89.2 56.0 56.8 96.1 -40.0 4.4 32% 26% 44% 16.2 43% 17.8 8.2 11.9 7.3 2.5% 32.5 5%		

Share Price Chart



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Analysis

Long Term Forecasts

- Previously, we had forecast that post the run off of ASB's currently contracted EPF vessels, the program ceased in FY'23 and the shipyard continued at a rate of 1 LCS vessel per annum. With the support business that drove circa A\$1.0-1.1bpa revenue from the US
- Recent management rhetoric and public US navy announcements (outlined above) regarding various potential new vessel programs now give us the confidence to bump up our base case long term forecasts to 1 LCS and 1 EPF per annum post FY'23. This implies a long term revenue forecast of \$1.3-1.4b per annum from the US business

FY'20 Forecasts

Our FY'20 forecasts are unchanged and depicted below:

Austal Group Forecasts to EBIT level by Geography						
	Units	FY18a	1H	2H	FY19f	FY20f
		A\$m	A\$m	A\$m	A\$m	A\$m
US operations						
Revenue	A\$m	1162.7	686.8	779.8	1466.6	1154.8
EBIT	A\$m	83.0	49.1	50.4	99.5	85.8
Australasian operations						
Revenue	A\$m	256.4	169.6	231.0	400.6	423.5
EBIT	A\$m	-8.3	4.1	8.6	12.7	28.5
Corporate EBIT*	A\$m	-9.7	-12.8	-10.2	-23.0	-20.0
Group Revenue	A\$m	1419.1	867.1	1000.1	1867.2	1578.3
Group EBIT	A\$m	65.0	40.4	48.8	89.2	94.4
Group EBIT Margin	%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	6.0%
EBIT Margins						
US operations						
*US Ship builing + Support margin	%	7.5%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.4%
Support	%	6.5%	7.7%	7.3%	7.5%	7.5%
Segment EBIT Margin%	%	7.1%	7.1%	6.5%	6.8%	7.4%
Australasian operations						
Ship building	%	-6.9%	1.8%	3.5%	2.8%	6.7%
Support	%	5.7%	5.2%	8.2%	6.0%	7.0%
Segment EBIT Margin%	%	-3.2%	2.4%	3.7%	3.2%	6.7%
ASB Group	%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	6.0%

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Valuation

We maintain our Buy recommendation with a new price target of \$3.10/sh up from \$2.93/sh.

Price Target	Units	Implied Shareprice	Weight	Valuation
NPV	\$/sh	3.60	50%	1.80
SOP blended FY19/20	\$/sh	2.60	50%	1.30
Blended Total	\$/sh			3.10

The components of our new blended valuation approach are outlined below:

NPV

We derive a NPV for ASB of \$3.60/sh vs \$3.18 previously

This is driven by our group forecasts and capex forecasts outlined above and in the summary page of this note. We use a WACC of 10.3% and a terminal growth rate of 3% (vs 1% previously).

SOP

We apply a FY'20 EV/EBIT multiple to ASB's Shipbuilding and Support division and subtract a NPV of ASB's corporate costs.

SOP Valuation		
Shipbuilding		
EBIT	A\$m	96.0
EV/EBIT	Х	10.0
Implied EV	A\$m	960.5
Support		
EBIT	A\$m	22.5
EV/EBIT	X	12.0
Implied Value	A\$m	270.4
SOP Valuation		
Ship Building	A\$m	960.5
Support	A\$m	270.4
Corp O/H	A\$m	-261.2
Net cash(debt)	A\$m	-25.3
Total market cap	A\$m	944.4
SOI	m	350.9
Inferred value per share		2.69

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Financial Statements	2017a	2018a	2019f	2020f	Performance Ratios 2017
Income Statement	1710.0	1 410 1	1007.0	1070 7	Growth & Margins
Revenue	1319.6	1419.1	1867.2 -1738.0	1638.3	Revenue Growth 16' EBITDA Growth 39'
Operating Expenses EBITDA	90.2	102.3	129.2	139.7	EBIT Growth 59
Depreciation	-30.4	-35.7	-39.1	-41.2	Normalized Net Profit Growth 81
EBITA	59.8	66.6	90.1	98.5	EBITDA margin 7'
Amortisation	-1.1	-1.6	-0.9	-0.9	EBIT margin 4
EBIT	58.7	65.0	89.2	97.6	Normalized net profit margin 3'
Abnormals Net interest expense	-11.6 -7.2	0.3 -8.5	0.0 -8.0	0.0 -8.0	Effective tax rate 61
NBPT	39.9	56.8	81.2	89.6	Liquidity
Tax (expense)/ credit	-24.5	-17.8	-25.2	-27.8	Capex/depreciation (x) 1. Current ratio (x) 1.
NPAT	15.4	39.0	56.0	61.8	Quick ratio (x)
Significant items after tax	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Receivable days 3
Minorities Reported NPAT	0.0 15.4	0.0 39.0	0.0 56.0	0.0 61.8	Inventory days
Analyst adj: g/w & amortisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Payable days -
Analyst adj. 9, w a amortisation Analyst adj: significant items (a/t)	20.7	0.6	0.8	0.9	Risk Measures
Normalised NPAT	36.1	39.5	56.8	62.7	Dividend Cover (x) 0.
					Payout ratio (%) 91
Cash flow (A\$m)	2017a	2018a	2019f	2020f	Net interest cover (x) 10 Net debt/equity (%) 10
Pretax profit	39.9	56.8	81.2	89.6	
+ Depreciation & Amort	31.5	37.3	40.0	42.1	Returns Return on average capital employed (%) 13'
-/+ associates profit/loss	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	ROIC 5
+ associates dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	ROA % 6
+ Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Return on average equity (%)
- Tax Paid Gross Cashflow	12.2 83.6	-7.1 87.0	-25.2 96.1	-27.8 103.9	
- Capital Expenditure	-53.6	-28.9	-40.0	-45.0	Share Data/Valuation 2017
- Change in Working Capital	-112.6	-45.9	-51.7	23.1	Share Data
Operating Free Cashflow	-82.6	12.2	4.4	82.0	Issued shares (m) 34
- acq of subs/other investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Weighted ave shares (m) 34
+ proceeds from disp of FA/subs	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Fully diluted shares (m) 34
- Dividends Paid	-12.3 0.0	-12.8 0.0	-11.6	-19.1 0.0	Basic EPS (c) 4. YoY change (%) -118'
+ Equity issued +/- Other	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Fully diluted EPS (c) 4.
Net Cashflow	-93.6	-0.6	-7.2	62.9	YoY change (%) -118
Opening Net (Debt)/Cash	49.7	-47.9	-25.3	-32.5	Fully diluted normalised EPS (c) 10.
Closing Net (Debt)/Cash	-43.9	-48.5	-32.5	30.4	YoY change (%) 80°
					Dividend/share (c) Franking (%) 100
Balance Sheet (\$m)	2017a	2018a	2019f	2020f	Gross cashflow/share (c) 24.
Cash	150.5	162.0	152.8	215.7	NBV/share (c) 130.
Receivables	91.1	97.3	128.1	112.4	NTA/Share (c) 128.
Inventory	170.4 7.1	246.5 7.6	324.3	284.6 7.6	Valuation
Other financial assets Current tax assets	0.7	7.6 4.5	7.6 4.5	7.6 4.5	PER (Basic) (x) 6
Other	2.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	PER (Fully diluted) (x) 6
Total current assets	422.4	519.6	618.9	626.4	PER (Fully diluted, normalized) (x) 2
Equity accounted investments	11.5	12.9	12.9	12.9	P/CFPS (x)
Receivables	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Price/NBV (x) 2.
Property, plant and equipment	500.3	565.7	566.6	570.4	Price/NTA (x) 2.
Intangibles	8.9	21.0	20.1	19.2	Dividend Yield (%) 1.4' Fully diluted normalized 3 yr EPS Cagr (%)-
Other Deferred Tax Assets	11.3	21.8	21.8	21.8	PEG ratio (x) -4.
Total non current assets	5.6 537.6	7.8 629.2	7.8 629.2	7.8 632.1	EV/EBITDA(x) 11.
Total assets	960.0	1148.8	1248.2	1258.5	EV/EBIT (x) 18
Payables	141.5	177.8	234.7	202.4	EV/Revenue (x) 0.
Interest bearing liabilties	9.9	72.8	72.8	72.8	NPV (\$/sh) 3.6
Provisions	60.0	70.1	70.1	70.1	WACC (%) 10 ⁴
Other	27.5	68.3	68.3	68.3	
Current tax liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other Information
Total current liabilites Other	238.9 64.0	389.0	445.8	413.5 64.3	Major Shareholders:
Interest bearing liabilties	186.5	64.3 112.5	64.3 112.5	112.5	Allan Gray
Provisions	2.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	John Rothwell
Deferred tax liabilities	10.9	32.5	30.5	30.5	12-mth High/Low (A\$/sh)
Total non current liabilties	264.2	210.9	208.9	208.9	Average daily volume (A\$m)
Total liabilties	503.1	599.9	654.8	622.4	ASX Code
Net Assets	456.9	548.9	593.4	636.1	Next result
Contributed equity	116.4	118.3	118.3	118.3	Company Description
Reserves	91.6	156.7	156.7	156.7	Company Description
Accumulated profit / (losses)	248.9	273.9	318.4	361.1	Austal is a West Australian based shipbuild
Non controlling interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	operations in Australia, USA, Philippines, Vi
Total equity	456.9	549.0	593.4	636.1	builds vessels for various military and parar

Performance Ratios	2017a	2018a	2019f	2020f
Growth & Margins				
Revenue Growth	16%	8%	32%	-12%
EBITDA Growth	39%	13%	26%	8%
EBIT Growth	67%	11%	37%	9%
Normalized Net Profit Growth	81%	10%	44%	10%
EBITDA margin	7%	7%	7%	9%
EBIT margin	4% 3%	5% 3%	5% 3%	6% 4%
Normalized net profit margin Effective tax rate	61%	31%	31%	31%
Liquidity	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Capex/depreciation (x)	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.1
Current ratio (x)	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5
Quick ratio (x)	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.6
Receivable days	30	24	22	27
Inventory days	-41	-58	-60	-74
Payable days	-6	-2	-2	-2
Risk Measures				
Dividend Cover (x)	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.4
Payout ratio (%)	91%	45%	45%	45%
Net interest cover (x)	13 10%	12 9%	16 5%	17 -5%
Net debt/equity (%)	10 %	970	3%	-5%
<u>Returns</u> Return on average capital employed	(%) 17%	12%	15%	16%
ROIC	5%	5%	7%	7%
ROA %	6%	6%	7%	8%
Return on average equity (%)	3%	8%	10%	10%
Share Data/Valuation	2017a	2018a	2019f	2020f
Share Data				
Issued shares (m)	349	351	351	351
Weighted ave shares (m)	349	350	351	351
Fully diluted shares (m) Basic EPS (c)	349 4.4	350 11.1	351 16.0	351 17.6
YoY change (%)	-118%	153%	43%	10%
Fully diluted EPS (c)	4.4	11.1	16.0	17.6
YoY change (%)	-118%	153%	43%	10%
Fully diluted normalised EPS (c)	10.3	11.3	16.2	17.9
YoY change (%)	80%	9%	43%	10%
Dividend/share (c)	4	5	7	8
Franking (%)	100%	100%	50%	50%
Gross cashflow/share (c)	24.0	24.9	27.4	29.6
NBV/share (c)	130.7	156.5	169.1	181.3
NTA/Share (c)	128.2	150.5	163.4	175.8
<u>Valuation</u>		0.0	10	10
PER (Basic) (x)	66	26	18	16
PER (Fully diluted) (x)	66 28	26 26	18 18	16 16
PER (Fully diluted, normalized) (x) P/CFPS (x)	12	12	11	10
Price/NBV (x)	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6
Price/NTA (x)	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.6
Dividend Yield (%)	1.4%	1.7%	2.5%	2.8%
Fully diluted normalized 3 yr EPS Cag	gr (%)-6%	-5%	41%	20%
PEG ratio (x)	-4.7	-5.1	0.4	0.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.8	10.4	8.2	7.6
EV/EBIT (x)	18.1	16.3	11.9	10.9
EV/Revenue (x)	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
NPV (\$/sh) WACC (%)	3.60 10%			
WACC (%)	10 /6			
Other Information				
Major Shareholders:				
Allan Gray				18.6%
John Rothwell				9.12%
12-mth High/Low (A\$/sh)			1 0	4/0.93
Average daily volume (A\$m)			1.5	2.5
ASX Code				ASB
Next result				Aug'19
Company Description				
Company Description				

der. The company has Vietnam and China. Austal builds vessels for various military and paramilitary customers as well as commercial and international ferry operators.

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Contact Details

Euroz Securities Limited

+61 8 9488 1400

Research Analysts

Jon Bishop - Head of Research Andrew Clayton - Resources Analyst Michael Emery - Resources Analyst Ben Laird - Industrials Director Gavin Allen - Industrials Analyst Seth Lizee - Associate Research Analyst +61 8 9488 1481 +61 8 9488 1427 +61 8 9488 1430 +61 8 9488 1429 +61 8 9488 1413 +61 8 9488 1414

Institutional Sales

Andrew McKenzie - Executive Chairman Rob Black - Managing Director Jay Hughes - Executive Director Russell Kane - Executive Director Simon Yeo - Executive Director Timothy Bunney - Executive Director Peter Schwarzbach - Executive Director Stacy Kitsantas - Institutional Adviser

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